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Reply to: Tampa, Florida

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PRESS RELEASE REGARDING ORLANDO MATERIAL WITNESS

During the course of the investigation of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, it has been necessary for the United States to seek material witness warrants for a number of individuals who are believed to have relevant information. Mac Cauley, the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that with regard to Ahmed Badawi, an Orlando, Florida resident, who had counsel and was released, at the present time he is not a subject of this investigation. A material witness warrant is a vehicle through which a federal court can detain an individual in order to preserve his or her testimony in a criminal proceeding. In order for a court to issue such a warrant, it must find that (1) the individual's testimony is material to a criminal proceeding, such as a grand jury proceeding; and (2) it may become impracticable to secure that person's presence by subpoena. The fact that an individual is detained pursuant to a material witness warrant does not necessarily means that he is guilty or suspected of any crime. Moreover, once the testimony of the individual in question is adequately preserved, the warrant will be satisfied and the witness will be released by the court.